

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 01523 251848Z
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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5014

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1523

STADIS//////////

AF ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (AHIDJO, AHMADOU), CM, US
SUBJ: POSSIBLE US VISIT OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO

REF: YAOUNDE 1360

1. AFTER SEEING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK (REPORTED SEPTTEL), FOREIGN MINISTER DEUTCHA CALLED ME ASIDE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT DURING MY WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS I WOULD BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE THE USG TO INVITE PRESIDENT AHIDJO FOR A VIST. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT VISITED THE U.S. SINCE 1968 AND, IN VIEW OF HIS OTHER TRAVELS (CHINA AND FRANCE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS), IN HIS OPINION IT WAS TIME THAT THE PRESIDENT VISITED THE US.

2. AMBASSADOR LEOPOLD OYONO, CAMEROONIAN PERM. REP. TO THE U.S. WISHED TO SEE ME PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE, BUT WE WERE UNABLE TO GET TOGETHER. I WAS TOLD BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE THE REQUEST COMMUNICATED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. THE SG OF THE PRESIDENCE, SAMUEL IBOUA, SAID LAST WEEK (REFTTEL) THAT THE CHIEF OF STATE "WOULD GO (TO THE U.S.) IF INVITED" IN
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ANSWER TO MY QUERY AS TO WHETHER HE WAS PLANNING A VISIT TO HOUSTON AS RUMOR HAD SUGGESTED.

4. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A GURC OFFICIAL HAS INITIATED A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AHIDJO VISIT TO THE U.S. I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS MATTER COULD BE SETTLED DURING MY UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS. THIS YEAR,

WITH THE FMS CREDITS AND POTENTIAL TRANSCAM III LOAN, I
BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TWO SIZEABLE ONE-TIME ASSISTANCE PROJECTS
THAT ARE UNLIKELY TO BE REPEATED AT THESE LEVELS IN THE FUTURE.
THESE ACTIVITIES SHOULD ASSIST IN PROVIDING THE TYPE OF
ATMOSPHERE CONDUCTIVE TO PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS.
SMYTHE

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